

REMARKS

The May 29 Office Action has been carefully considered. In the specification, the paragraphs [page 4, lines 15-17], [page 6, lines 4-7], [page 6, Table 1], [page 7, Table 2] and [page 8, lines 1-13] have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. In particular in the paragraph on page 8, lines 1-13, the phrase "20 grams of mercury" has been corrected to "20 milligrams of mercury". The phrase "20 grams of mercury" is a simple typographical error. The amended phrase "20 milligrams of mercury" is consistent with the amount of mercury used to dose lamps in other embodiments of the invention, for example on page 7, lines 16-19 and on page 7, lines 20-22. No new matter has been added to the specification under 35 U.S.C. §132 in making these corrections.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. In addition Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7 have been amended for clarification purposes as discussed below in the Applicants remarks regarding the Examiner's rejections. The Applicants note for the record that these claim amendments have been made to clarify the subject matter of the invention, and not in response to any rejection over the prior art. No new matter has been added to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §132 in making these changes. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure due to informalities. The Examiner has required that the first paragraph on page 1, of the specification, be amended by inserting "now abandoned" after "...filed December 10, 1998".

Applicants submit that the Specification has been amended accordingly, and that the Examiner's objection to the Specification is therefore successfully overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e)

Claims 1 and 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Foust (US 5,821,682).

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections with respect to the claims as amended.

The Examiner states the following (quote): "Regarding independent claim 1, Foust discloses a method for preventing formation of leachable mercury compounds during TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure) testing of mercury vapor discharge lamps having an envelope of light transmitting glass and an amount of elemental mercury (col. 2, ln. 6-12). Foust also discloses a step of incorporating into the lamp structure an amount of pure gelatin or a degradation product of pure gelatin in the form of a discrete button (col. 5, ln. 13-16). Regarding claim 2, Foust discloses the gelatin being incorporated in the lamp in an amount of about 0.02 to about 3 grams per lamp (col. 5, ln. 56-59). Regarding claim 3, Foust discloses that the gelatin is incorporated into the lamp structure of an end cap (col. 5, ln. 18-20). Regarding independent claim 4, claim 4 is a combination of each limitation from claims 1-3. Thus since Foust discloses all of the limitations of claims 1-3 as discussed earlier, Foust also discloses all of the limitations of claim 4. Regarding claims 5-7, Foust discloses the mercury vapor arc discharge lamp comprising each of the elements cited for claims 1-4, as described earlier".

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite a method which comprises incorporating into the lamp structure an amount of an antioxidant consisting of pure gelatin or a degradation product of pure gelatin in the form of a discrete button which is effective to substantially prevent formation of ferric and cuprous compounds when iron and copper components of the lamp are exposed to moisture and acidic conditions. Independent claims 5 and 7 have also been amended to recite a mercury vapor arc discharge lamp comprising an antioxidant consisting of pure gelatin or (in the case of claim 5) a degradation product of pure gelatin.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in order to anticipate under §102, a reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Foust et al. do not teach all of the limitations of amended claims 1, 4, 5 and 7.

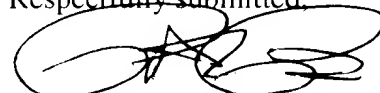
Applicants submit that Foust et al. do not disclose that gelatin alone is an effective antioxidant. The reference instead teaches the use of antioxidant species in addition to gelatin which acts as a carrier for the antioxidant (col. 1, ln. 50-63). In the presently claimed invention, gelatin itself functions as the antioxidant (page 5, ln. 22-24). Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in Foust et al. of any antioxidant consisting of pure gelatin or a degradation product thereof. In the claimed invention the discovery that gelatin alone is effective as an antioxidant is unexpected.

Applicants therefore submit that because the reference cited by the Examiner does not teach every aspect of the claimed invention, the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Foust et al. is successfully overcome.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 14, 2003

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